

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 6-16 in view of the following remarks.

Status of Application

In the Office Action dated May 24, 2004, Figures 1 and 2 were required to be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." In addition, Figures 1 and 2 were objected to as they were illustrated in a foreign language. Claims 11-16 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,051,641 to Weh (the "Weh patent"). Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Weh patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,783,886 to Hong (the "Hong patent").

Figures 1 and 2 have been corrected. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 11-13 and 15 have been amended.

Drawing Changes

Figures 1 and 2 have been corrected to address the Examiner's comments.

Amendment to the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Objection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

Claims 11-16 were rejected as indefinite. In order to make these claims easier to understand, claim 11 has been amended merely to refer to first through

fourth rings of polarity-altering magnets, as opposed to third through sixth rings of polarity-altering magnets. Claims 12, 13, and 15, each of which depends from claim 11, have been amended merely to properly refer to the rings of polarity-altering magnets set forth in claim 11. As such, the scope of each of claims 11-16 has not been changed. Support for these four rings is found in Figure 3 and at lines 7-9 of page 5 of the cleaned-up version of the specification: “each of the rotor elements 36, 37 includes not only one ring of polarity-alternating permanent magnets 38, 39, but rather two rings of polarity-alternating permanent magnets 38, 39.” Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s interpretation of these four rings of polarity-altering magnets is not consistent with the specification and requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

According to the Examiner, the Weh patent discloses each of the limitations of claims 6-9. In particular, with respect to claim 6, the Examiner asserted that the rotor in the Weh patent is laterally surrounded by two cylindrical stator rings.

In response, Applicant respectfully submits that the lateral aspects of rotor La, as illustrated in Figure 4 of the Weh patent, are not surrounded by stator pairs E1a and E2a. Similarly, the lateral aspects of rotor Lb are not surrounded by stator pairs E1b and E2b. In fact, as seen in Figure 4 of the Weh patent, the lateral aspects of rotors La and Lb face toward the left and right of the figure, while the stators are above and below the rotors.

In contrast, claim 6 of the present invention requires that the “rotor is laterally surrounded by said two cylindrical stator rings.” In other words, the rotor of the present invention is disc-shaped, and the stator rings are located on either side of this disc-shaped rotor. This geometry is not taught by the Weh patent, and, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Weh patent does not anticipate claim 6. As each of claims 7-9 depends, either directly or indirectly, from claim 6, the Weh patent also does not anticipate these claims. Similarly, as each of claims 10-16 depends, either directly or indirectly, from claim 6, the Weh patent additionally does not anticipate these claims. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 6-16 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

According to the Examiner, the Weh patent discloses all of the limitations of claim 10 except for “showing the electric drive arrangement wherein additional permanent magnets are arranged about said stator blades and about said permanent magnets of said rotor for magnetic centering of said rotor.” The Examiner further stated that at the time of the present invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Weh by arranging additional permanent magnets about the stator blades and about the permanent magnets of the rotor for magnetic centering of the rotor, as taught by the Hong patent.

In response, Applicant respectfully submits, as described above, that the Weh patent does not disclose each and every limitation in claim 6. Therefore, as

claim 10 depends indirectly from claims 6, claim 10 is neither anticipated by the Weh patent nor is rendered obvious by the combination of the Weh patent and the Hong patent.

Claims 11-16 were also rejected based on the Weh patent and the Hong patent. As each of these claims depends directly or indirectly from claim 6, claims 11-16 are also not anticipated by the Weh patent and are also not rendered obvious by the combination of the Weh patent and the Hong patent.

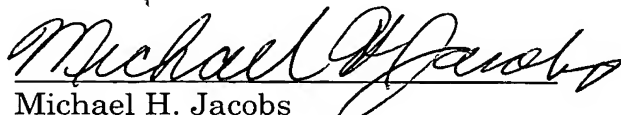
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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 038741.52724US).

Respectfully submitted,

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